

# THE NOXIOUS NEWS

## July Weed Tour Focused On Conservation Reserve Program

By Steve McGonigal

Noxious weed control on lands enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program was the focus of a tour held in conjunction with the July meeting of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board in Whitman County.



Tour participants looked at CRP sites with varying weed control efforts

Touring fields near Colfax, the group of nearly 40 people included representatives of U.S. Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, state agency land managers, county weed coordinators, members of the State Weed Board, a newspaper reporter, people involved in the CRP program and others. State Representative Don Cox, who had registered for the tour but encountered a schedule conflict, attended the State Board's meeting the following day to discuss the CRP's weed management. The size of the group, one of the largest at a tour related to a State Weed Board meeting in recent years, indicated a high level of interest in the subject.

On-the-ground planning for the tour was done by Whitman County Weed Coordinator Peggy Wright, and by managers within the United States Department of Agriculture, which administers the CRP. In a structure some people consider complex, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service manages some aspects of the program and a different branch of USDA, the Farm Services Agency, oversees other aspects. There is also a state-level committee, and a committee in each county where the program is active, and each of these makes certain decisions.

Participating landowners receive yearly payments per acre from the federal government under a contract. Figures mentioned on the tour ranged from \$50 to \$75 per acre per year. The contracts require the landowner to discontinue farming and plant and maintain certain groundcovers, which can vary according to which of several different programs they are participating in. A primary goal is erosion control, although there are other goals, such as wildlife habitat.

The contracts have weed-control requirements, and provisions for payment reductions and contract termination if the weed control requirements are not met. How those provisions are enforced, and whether or not they are actually enforced at all in some locations, have been the subjects of periodic discussions between USDA managers and weed control officials in Washington State since at least the year 2000. A meeting in Spokane in April of that year resolved some issues to the satisfaction of some county weed coordinators. State Weed Board staff members have also discussed some issues with national-level USDA officials in Washington, D.C.

However, in some counties some aspects of CRP have continued to complicate noxious weed control.

The latest efforts at resolution began with a phone call from the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board staff to state-level FSA managers in April of 2004. During this call, the exact date of the July 19 tour at Colfax was provided, and state-level FSA officials were asked to participate.

The State Weed Board followed up with a letter to FSA in May of 2004, outlining some of the problems. "The idling of former croplands under CRP, and the cessation of farming practices that formerly took place on those lands, increases populations of certain noxious weeds. Some enrolled property owners apparently don't sufficiently control those noxious weeds," the letter stated. "At the same time, in the view of some local weed control officials, the CRP contract effectively makes the county weed control board the enforcer of the weed-control requirements of that contract. The combination of these two effects can increase the workload of a county weed control board beyond available staffing and funding." The letter invited CRP managers to two weed-identification seminars then being planned by the State Weed Board.

The Farm Services Administration never responded to that letter.

The quality of weed control work at the sites visited on the July 19 tour varied greatly.

The first stop on the tour, a 100-acre field, was considered by tour participants to be heavily infested with noxious weeds, including poison hemlock and Canada thistle. No FSA officials were available for discussion at that



Peggy Wright provides information on Whitman County weed control

site. At a later stop, FSA officials said that the owner of the first field had not refused cooperation, and thus continued to receive full payments. No payments have been reduced in Whitman County for two years, and there has never been a contract terminated, the group was told. Federal government rules do not allow county weed boards nor the public to know who is receiving money under this tax-payer funded program, nor which properties are enrolled.

A second stop examined a CRP field directly behind the FSA/NRCS office in Colfax. The field was said to have previously suffered weed infestations, and had corrective actions taken by the property owner at the advice of USDA officials. Its condition was much better than the first field.

FSA officials then led the group to other properties. While some had whole fields in CRP, other sites showed “contours” of very steep land in CRP, while surrounding areas remained in grain production. At a site where trees were included in a “wildlife habitat” CRP planting, tour participants left the busses and a group of deer bounded across the fields as if on cue. From a weed-control standpoint, the land was in excellent condition.

The final stop of the day featured “CRP Mid-management Cost Share Practices.” At this site, where some weed problems remained in spite of active management on the part of the owner, additional money was being made available to help the owner in those efforts.

By the end of the day, those on the tour had seen the full range of weed-control results on CRP land, which had been the original intention of those who developed the concept for the tour. Even on the bus ride back to downtown Colfax, however, many were incredulous that the owner of the first field was not under any threat of payment reductions nor contract termination. There were said to be other CRP properties in similar condition.

After the tour and a resultant front-page article in the Whitman County Gazette, state-level CRP managers contacted the State Weed Board to propose further discussions about noxious weed control issues. The State Weed Board will follow up, and county and district weed coordinators will be advised of opportunities to participate in those discussions.



## Chasing the Butterfly

Butterfly bush, a popular ornamental, is becoming a plant of concern in waste areas, riparian corridors and roadsides. Many countries, like the UK and New Zealand, along with surrounding states, Oregon, have noted the invasive qualities of this plant and are now battling to slow its expansion.

This year the state weed board intends to get a better understating of where butterfly bush (*Buddleia davidii*) and related genotypes are located. In Western Washington there has been a noted population explosion and expansion in the last 5 years. Many river corridors and roadsides are becoming heavily infested with this aggressive invader. Populations in eastern Washington are lesser known and may even be less aggressive at this time.

Not sure what the plant looks like:

Dense shrub up to 15' tall, with brittle stems, 3-5" gray-green leaves, and 1/2" purple flowers

The noxious weed committee is actively working to gather distribution information from our local county weed coordinators. We need your help, please take some time to take a quick visual inventory of areas that you see infested with butterfly bush and send your input to the state noxious weed control board via Dana [dcoggon@agr.wa.gov](mailto:dcoggon@agr.wa.gov).

Calls will be made to each county coordinator in the next few weeks to confirm our information.



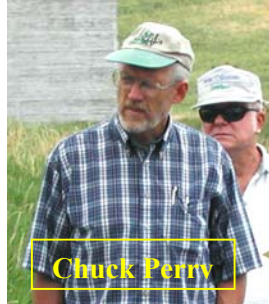
## Chuck Perry Named To State Weed Board

Moses Lake resident Chuck Perry has been appointed to the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board to represent the Public Interests on the Eastside of the state.

Perry was appointed July 16 by Valoria H. Loveland, director of the Washington State Department of Agriculture, to complete the term begun by former board member Joan Frazee, who resigned. The term runs until March 14, 2006. He participated in his first State Weed Board meeting as a voting member July 20.

With a bachelor's degree in range management from WSU with a minor in botany, Perry worked for 33 years with the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife. There, in the Lands Program, he helped organize the biological control program that proved effective against purple loosestrife. He was also instrumental in starting the Department's *Spartina* control program.

Perry is now a consultant in range management, and his work includes helping clients map and control weeds.



## Noxious Weed Committee Has New Nursery Representative

Bainbridge Island resident Jeanne McNeil was recently appointed to the Noxious Weed Committee of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board to represent the interests of the nursery industry.

With a master's degree in international agriculture/horticulture from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, McNeil operates her own landscape firm, McNeil & Associates. She is also a Certified Professional Horticulturist.

McNeil is currently vice president of the Washington State Nursery & Landscape Association, and is scheduled to be president of the organization in 2006. She recently completed law school at Seattle University, passed the bar examinations, and now has a law office in Poulsbo.

## "Success Stories" Solicited For Next Biennial Report

The Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board is now beginning the process of writing a "Biennial Report" detailing the work of the state's noxious weed control system over the previous two-year period. The report goes to the Governor and every member of the State Legislature, in addition to others.

The last report featured, for the first time, a series of "Success Stories," promoted right on the cover.

These nine short stories described such things as the eradication of kudzu in Clark County and a dramatic decrease in tansy ragwort in Whatcom County. Partnerships were featured in articles about the Saltcedar Taskforce and the biocontrol work of four northeastern counties and the Colville Tribe.

Success stories are considered highly desirable in the report, since they illustrate the positive results that can be achieved with the right combinations of vigilance, persistence, expertise, funding and teamwork.

Success stories are not limited to eradications or dramatic results. They can describe an early detection, an effective collaboration or an innovative treatment technique. While published by the State Weed Board, the Biennial Report covers the work of county weed boards, weed districts, state agencies and everyone working toward noxious weed control within Washington State.

Anyone with a lead or idea for a success story is encouraged to contact Steve McGonigal at (360) 902-2053 or [smcgonigal@agr.wa.gov](mailto:smcgonigal@agr.wa.gov)

## Knotweed Quarantine Passed

A hearing was held August 19 on a proposal to add Japanese, Himalayan, giant and Bohemian knotweeds to the Washington State quarantine list, thus forbidding their sale. The hearing also concerned three plants to the wetland and aquatic weed quarantine. Those plants are Australian swamp stonecrop, delta arrowhead and water caltrop.

At its regular meeting July 20, the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board voted to support the proposal to quarantine the knotweeds.

A six-page document with full information, can be obtained by phoning Steve McGonigal at (360) 902-2053.



## **BLM to Accept Public Comments on Vegetation Management EIS**

Later this fall (tentatively starting in September), the Bureau of Land Management will hold a public comment period for its new Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) - Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands. It's important for the scientific community to provide feedback to the BLM supporting safe, effective use of herbicides in integrated vegetation management (IVM) programs.

The current EIS was last updated in 1991 and authorized a number of vegetation management strategies that included several herbicides. We encourage you and your peers to write letters supporting the continued responsible use of established, reliable herbicides like imazapyr and glyphosate and the addition of new chemistries, such as diflufenzopyr and imazapic that have been developed during the last 13 years.

Once the BLM posts the EIS on their Web site ([www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov)), they will accept public comment online for 45 days. While a posting date has not yet been set, unofficial word is that the BLM would like to complete the 45 day public comment period before the national elections and subsequent holiday season. Please check out the BLM Web site in mid- to late-September. Similar to other EIS projects, the link to Public Comment Form should appear on the BLM home page: [www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov). We appreciate your participation and support during this process.

Jennifer Vollmer  
BASF  
Senior Environmental Resource Specialist

## **Best Management Practices for several Pacific Northwest plant invaders (posted June 2004)**

Jonathan Soll (TNC-Oregon) has compiled, written, and summarized the best management practices for several common weeds in the Pacific Northwest, including Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*), Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), English ivy (*Hedera helix*), and the knotweeds (*Polygonum* spp.)! Mandy Tu has also added a new review for reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) management practices. Each review is stuffed with wisdom and excellent photos. Read on, and learn about what folks in the rainy Northwest are doing to control these species!

<http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/>

## **Knotweed Work Underway**

The Washington State Department of Agriculture has received funding for knotweed control in Southwest Washington during fiscal year 2005. The majority of the control work will be concentrated along stream corridors, as movement of the plants during high water events seems to be the greatest conduit of spread. The program consists of extensive surveys of the chosen streams and treatment of infestations in a downstream direction beginning at the headwaters. This method of treating all infestations starting at the headwaters will keep treated areas from becoming reinfested by knotweed being moved by the rivers. This will make future treatments more effective and facilitate the potential eradication of knotweeds from the entire watersheds currently being treated. All treatments will be conducted in accordance to integrated pest management principles.

The projects will be conducted by the weed management programs of Clark, Lewis, Skamania, and Pacific counties; a cooperative project between The Nature Conservancy, Grays Harbor County, and Washington State Department of Natural Resources; and work by Skamania and Pacific counties in conjunction with the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. The streams include the main stems and tributaries of the North and East Forks of the Lewis River, Washougal River, Wind River, Little White Salmon River, Willapa River, Cowlitz River, Black River, Elk River, Wishkah River, and Little Creek. There will also be a project on State Parks uplands to protect two plant communities listed as globally imperiled.

For more information about this project contact Brad Archibold 360 902-1853 [Barchbold@agr.wa.gov](mailto:Barchbold@agr.wa.gov)

## **2005 Weed list Changes**

Make sure to get any changes in to the Weed board by September 17<sup>th</sup>. Check your county weed lists and let us know if you have any weeds you want to change the designations on. Please provide us with this information as soon as possible so that we can inform the committee of the requests before the September 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **Herbarium has moved**

The Noxious weed control board herbarium has been moved and added to the Center for Urban Horticulture Hyde herbarium collection. The 635 specimens have been cataloged and posted a [www.nwcb.wa.gov](http://www.nwcb.wa.gov). if you would like to get any samples from the herbarium please contact Dana for the appropriate paper work

## Executive Order Facilitation of Cooperative Conservation

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Purpose. The purpose of this order is to ensure that the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, and Defense and the Environmental Protection Agency implement laws relating to the environment and natural resources in a manner that promotes cooperative conservation, with an emphasis on appropriate inclusion of local participation in Federal decisionmaking, in accordance with their respective agency missions, policies, and regulations.

Sec. 2. Definition. As used in this order, the term "cooperative conservation" means actions that relate to use, enhancement, and enjoyment of natural resources, protection of the environment, or both, and that involve collaborative activity among Federal, State, local, and tribal governments, private for-profit and nonprofit institutions, other nongovernmental entities and individuals.

Sec. 3. Federal Activities. To carry out the purpose of this order, the Secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, and Defense and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall, to the extent permitted by law and subject to the availability of appropriations and in coordination with each other as appropriate:

(a) carry out the programs, projects, and activities of the agency that they respectively head that implement laws relating to the environment and natural resources in a manner that:

(i) facilitates cooperative conservation;

(ii) takes appropriate account of and respects the interests of persons with ownership or other legally recognized interests in land and other natural resources;

(iii) properly accommodates local participation in Federal decisionmaking; and

(iv) provides that the programs, projects, and activities are consistent with protecting public health and safety;

(b) report annually to the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality on actions taken to implement this order; and

(c) provide funding to the Office of Environmental Quality Management Fund (42 U.S.C. 4375) for the Conference for which section 4 of this order provides.

Sec. 4. White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation. The Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality shall, to the extent permitted by law and subject to the availability of appropriations:

(a) convene not later than 1 year after the date of this order, and thereafter at such times as the Chairman deems appropriate, a White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation (Conference) to facilitate the exchange of information and advice relating to (i) cooperative conservation and (ii) means for achievement of the purpose of this order; and

(b) ensure that the Conference obtains information in a manner that seeks from Conference participants their individual advice and does not involve collective judgment or consensus advice or deliberation.

Sec. 5. General Provision. This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities or entities, its officers, employees or agents, or any other person.

GEORGE W. BUSH

THE WHITE HOUSE,

August 26, 2004.

## OKANOGAN LEGISLATIVE TOUR

### Leaves the country

On August 25 Okanogan county noxious weed program organized a tour for 58 participants to tour the county and an adjoining Canadian province. The tour highlighted issues around the movement of weeds within Okanogan county and abroad. Participants in the tour ranged from county weed board members to legislative representatives.

Presentations on the bus included Okanogan weed board coordinator Sheilah Kennedy and the Quad county Biocontrol project Dan Fagerlie and Daro Palmer. They each focused on the importance of cooperation between WA counties and providences in Canada. The tour stressed the importance of communication and cooperation at the local and regional levels.

Speakers including Bonnie Harper-Lore stressed the importance of programs such as the Okanogan's Hwy 97 cross borders project (for more information on this project please contact the Okanogan Noxious weed control Board). Terry McNabb spoke on the impacts of aquatic weeds and the mobility of many weedy aquatic species. The local Ranger districts shared information of their control progress over the last few years and provided insight to further challenges that they face with weed control efforts. Anna Cherry with the National Invasive Species Council stressed the importance of education and communication at a national level.

Dr. Randy Westbrooks finished out the speeches by addressing the importance of early detection and rapid response. He noted that many of our current weed problems could have been prevented with quick actions by local weed programs. Dr. Westbrooks noted that programs must have strong leadership at the local level. He stated that even with the current state of weed infestations in the US that we are still vulnerable to new problems and even more ecological damage.

The over all theme of the tour was cooperation. At each of the tour stops there was much emphasis put on local action and team efforts to reduce the spread of noxious weeds in all areas.

A big thanks goes out to the Okanogan Weed control program for all of their hard work on this tour. Their team did a great job of getting the word out locally, regionally and Nationally. The information provided at this tour will be taken back to D.C. with the hopes of providing information to our nation's leaders that noxious weeds need to be a priority.

For a more in-depth coverage of the tour contact Dana at [dcoggon@agr.wa.gov](mailto:dcoggon@agr.wa.gov) or call 360-902-2082



Tour group observing nodding (musk) thistle and biological controls in Canada

## UP coming Events:

### **SEPTEMBER:**

**State Noxious weed control board tour and meeting** Sept 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> Newport, Pend Oreille County  
for more information go to: <http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/meetingmnts/premeeting%20info/sept04.htm>

### **Aquatic Weed Management Fund Grant Workshops**

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) is pleased to announce the opening of the Fiscal Year 2005 funding cycle for the Aquatic Weed Management Fund (AWMF).

**All workshops begin at 10 a.m.**

**LACEY** Tuesday, September 28, 2004    **SPOKANE** Thursday, September 30, 2004

**For More Information** contact: Kathy Hamel Department of Ecology  
PO Box 47600 Olympia, WA 98504-7600  
360-407-6562 [kham461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:kham461@ecy.wa.gov)

## USDA Forest Service seeks comments on invasive weed plan

PORTLAND, August 27, 2004 - The Pacific Northwest Region has released a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) addressing the growing problems caused by invasive plants in National Forests. When completed, this EIS will amend all Forest Plans to improve invasive plant prevention and provide new tools to tackle more than 420,000 acres infested with yellow star thistle, leafy spurge, and Japanese knotweed. Public comments on the DEIS are requested by November 24, 2004, after which they will be analyzed, leading to a Final EIS and Record of Decision to be issued next Spring.

Additional information about the DEIS and the invasive plant problem can be found at [www.fs.fed.us/r6/invasiveplant-eis](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/invasiveplant-eis) or by contacting Gene Skrine at 503-808-2685. Comments can be submitted by email to: [r6\\_IPEIS@fs.fed.us](mailto:r6_IPEIS@fs.fed.us), or by writing the team at: Invasive Plant Project, USDA Forest Service, PO Box 3623, Portland, OR 97208.

Open Houses-Dates, Times, and Locations

Date	Location
<b>September 21, 2004</b> 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	<b>Colville, Washington</b> Spokane Community College 985 S Elm Street Dominion and Monumental Rooms
<b>September 22, 2004</b> 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	<b>Wenatchee, Washington,</b> Red Lion 1225 N Wenatchee Ave. Cascade Room
<b>September 23, 2004</b> 6:00 pm-9:00 pm	<b>Olympia, Washington</b> Olympic NF Supervisors Office 1835 Black Lake Blvd, SW, Olympia

## OCTOBER:

No current events known if have any that you would like to publicize email Dana at [dcoggon@agr.wa.gov](mailto:dcoggon@agr.wa.gov)

## November:

**Washington Weed Association Conference** Nov 3-6 <http://www.weedconference.org/>

**North West WA Knotweed symposium:** Nov 10 Everett WA for more info and a registration form go to <http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/PNWKNOTWEED/2004symposium.htm>

**State Noxious weed board Meeting** Nov 16 Skamania County Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center  
[http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/who\\_we\\_are/meeting.html](http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/who_we_are/meeting.html)

**New brochures and other news articles have been posted on the State Weed board Web site please take some time to browse through some things and also let Dana know how the web site can be a more useful tool. [www.wcb.wa.gov](http://www.wcb.wa.gov)**